

Hunter Owens

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About

Public Sector Technologist with significant expertise in Data Science, Open Data/Data Sharing, Machine Learning, and bringing data to a variety of public sector organizations. Experience building multi city collaborations around open source / open data, extensive community engagement, and data driven policy implementation.

Experience

City of Los Angeles, Senior Data Scientist / Programmer Analyst IV 2016-Current

- First Data Science hire at the Information Technology Agency. Built, budgeted and hired for a Citywide Data Science and Predictive Analytics team of 4 people responsible for delivering world class analytics and data projects. Responsible for helping to implement data lakes, data governance, and advising city departments on data projects. Developed tools to help departments use and govern open data portals.
- Developed, wrote and managed the implementation of the [Mobility Data Specification](#), which, in one year, has become the leading way for micromobility companies to work with cities using an API, rather than paper forms and excel dumps. This data standard has been adopted by 50+ cities after being first used in Los Angeles. Received press in Wired, CNN and more.
- Created a citywide data science platform, used by internal analysts and other data scientists at over 10 departments to access, schedule, analyze, program and present the result of their analysis and share citywide using Civis Platform. Helped write / update City's ITPC Open Source and Open Data Policies. Helped departments hire 10+ Data Analytics staff and interns.
- Incubated and ran the [Data Science Federation](#), a partnership with local LA area universities to tackle Data Science challenges around the City. In three years, we've engaged 400+ students with over 20 getting jobs in the City of LA. So far, we've completed 35+ Data Science projects scoped by us and brought by City departments as diverse as the Port of LA, the LA Zoo and the Department of Cultural Affairs. The program has received a "Government Technology Excellence Award".
- Oversaw the development / was the tech lead for [ShakeAlertLA](#), the first earthquake early warning app deployed in the United States in partnership with USGS and CalOES. Wrote RFP and Statement of Work to ensure delivery in under 1 year in accordance

with the Mayor's directive. The app has been downloaded over 800,000 times, was honored with an IDC Smart Cities award, and received coverage in the Los Angeles Times, CNN and more.

The Impact Lab, Data Scientist, 2015-2016

- Consulting and Product Development practice focused on delivering analytics that matter to Social Sector organizations. Helped develop and close over \$1 million in revenue for the first year. Oversaw first ever Blended Learning analytics efficiency project for a major charter school. Helped build and deploy large open source software package powering pay-for-success energy efficiency pilots in CA.
- Worked on several OpenHMIS data standards based projects, working to integrate reporting from 10+ HMIS systems nationwide into shared analytics and reporting tools with local data. Improved the governance and helped various city / county / state agencies learn about the importance of data governance / standards.

Center For Data Science and Public Policy, Data Engineer, 2013-2015

- Research Lab at the Computation Institute at the University of Chicago which oversees the Data Science for Social Good fellowship. Helped build and deploy under matching and high school dropout models across the country and the development of standardized ETL procedures for the center. Ran AWS infrastructure for 40+ fellows and researchers.

KIPP NJ, Data Science Fellow, 2014

- First ever Data Science Fellow at KIPP NJ, one of the one of the largest charter school operators in the nation. Built out CollegeMat.ch, a tool designed to help counselors and students identify ideal college outcomes and target students at risk. Also helped transition to the OneNewark unified enrollment system.

Education

BA, University of Chicago, History

- Teaching Assistant, Computing for Social Science
- Chicago Booth New Venture Challenge Finalist
- Moderator, Pub Trivia

Skills

- Programming Languages: Python, R, Julia, Java, C, Javascript

- Data Tools: Pandas, Spark, D3, Geopandas, SQL, Airflow, Kafta, Scikit-Learn, git, github, Postgres/PostGIS, R Shiny, Tidyverse, Jupyterlab/Jupyterhub, etc.
- Cloud: Amazon Web Services, Google Compute Engine
- Other Experience: Data Governance, Open Data, Open Source

Publications

- An End-to-End Traffic Vision and Counting System Using Computer Vision and Machine Learning: The Challenges in Real-Time Processing”, [Proceeding of Int. Conf. on Advances in Signal, Image & Video Processing, 2018](#). (Awarded best paper)
- [Are All Music Festivals Really the Same Now? Deadspin, 2016](#)
- Food Writing at Saveur, Fooditor & Chicagoist.

Community

Data + Donuts LA / School of Data LA

Helped create and build the first ever public sector technology breakfast speaker series, a collaborative effort between the City of Los Angeles, the County of Los Angeles and the Southern California Association of Governments. This speaker series features talks on data and research challenges from such organizations as the Housing and Community Investment Department and Skid Row Org on how to use data to drive organizational change. In the first year, we had over 600 attendees from public sector organizations in the LA area attend.

ChiHackNight / Hack for LA

Helped run projects and communities at both Hack for LA and Chi Hack Night, the local Civic Technology meetups. Built [workfor.la](#), [ilbudgetclock.org](#) and other public interest sites.

Talks/Leadership

- [Data Science Success Stories from Southern California](#), CalData Quarterly, 2019
- [Don't Reinvent the Tool: Using Open Source in Government](#) (Code for America Conference, 2019)
- [Towards a Taxonomy of Government Data](#) (CSVConference)
- [Python at City Scale](#) (PyData LA, 2018)
- [Bias and Ethics in City Services Data Science](#) (Invited Talk at Bloomberg Data for Good Exchange 2017)
- Data Science 101 Workshop (Code for America Conference, 2018)
- Building Data Pipelines in Python (PyData Chicago 2016, PyData DC 2017)
- Education and Machine Learning (DoGoodData 2016)